

4-8843

VR

14 OCT 1959

(CONF) ELINT Requirements Requiring Sensitive Collection

CIA (ATTN: Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr.)

1. Reference is made to your memorandum, subject as above, dated 9 September 1959. I share your interest in obtaining better collection against priority targets and avoiding wasteful effort. However, there are points in your memorandum that require clarification and elaboration. As you know, NSCID #6 and paragraph IV.D. of the DOD ELINT Directive, dated 19 March 1959, provide for certain military commanders to conduct ELINT collection and processing activities. Where such activities are Air Force related, they are responsive to national requirements levied through this Headquarters. Additionally, with regard to the terms sensitive and clandestine, some of these operations are sensitive purely from a political standpoint. It would not appear to be appropriate or desirable to establish different procedures for handling requirements associated with them.

2. In keeping with current Air Force policy, I am endeavoring to reduce the establishment of committees to the absolute minimum. In this regard, it is my considered opinion that a new committee to handle ELINT requirements is not required; and it is recommended that the functions outlined in your memorandum be handled by the existing Ad Hoc Requirements Committee. In the event that problems involving policy matters relating to ELINT arise, they should be referred to the already established ELINT Committee for resolution.

3. I have instructed Colonel May and Colonel Scott, the USAF members of the ARC and the ELINT Committee, respectively, to cooperate to the greatest extent possible with these committees on matters pertaining to ELINT requirements and policy.

JAMES H. WALSH
MAJOR GENERAL, USAF
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,
INTELLIGENCE

NOTED BY DD/P

*My forward
to Mr. Cunningham
of Mr. Roberts.*

NSA and USAF review(s) completed.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

SECRET